

A15WX #

(330) PMS BUDGET

PERSONALITY IN THE NEWS: RABORN

BY DON CARSON

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WASHINGTON, APRIL 12 (AP)-A FRIEND OF WILLIAM F. RABORN JR. DESCRIBES HIM AS A MAN WHO "CAN REALLY CUT THROUGH THE FOG." NOW THE RETIRED ADMIRAL IS TAKING OVER AS CHIEF OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND ITS SHADOWNY, SUPER-SECRET OPERATIONS.

RABORN WAS NAMED TO THE POST YESTERDAY BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON. HE SUCCEEDS JOHN A. MCCONE, WHO IS RETURNING TO PRIVATE LIFE.

IN THE NAVY, RABORN DEVELOPED THE POLARIS MISSILE. HE NOW LEAVES THE VICE PRESIDENCY OF AEROJET GENERAL CORP. OF PASADENA, CALIF., A JOB HE HAS HELD SINCE HIS 1963 RETIREMENT AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR RESEARCH.

HE HAD WON THAT SPOT AFTER LEADING THE TEAM WHICH CREATED THE FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE POLARIS AND ITS SUBMERGED LAUNCHING DEVICE, THE POP UP.

BUT RABORN'S NAVAL CAREER WASN'T LIMITED TO THE OFFICE AND THE LABORATORY.

HE HAD BEEN A NAVAL AVIATOR, A GUNNERY OFFICER, DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR AIR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE USS HANCOCK DURING THE LATE STAGES OF WORLD WAR II.

HE WAS ABOARD THE HANCOCK ON APRIL 7, 1945, WHEN AN ENEMY BOMB EXPLODED ON THE FLIGHT DECK. RABORN SUPERVISED FIRE FIGHTING AND DAMAGE-CONTROL UNITS IN THE MIDST OF BLINDING SMOKE AND LARGE FIRES.

NINE YEARS LATER, HE WAS COMMANDING THE USS BENNINGTON WHEN IT WAS ROCKED BY EXPLOSIONS WHICH BROUGHT INJURY AND DEATH TO 220 MEN.

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RABORN'S ACTION DURING THE CATASTROPHE BROUGHT A COMMENDATION "FOR SAVING MANY LIVES AND CONTROLLING THE DAMAGE TO HIS SHIP."

BORN IN DECATUR, TEX., ON JUNE 8, 1905, RABORN GREW UP IN RYAN AND MARLOW, OKLA. HE GRADUATED FROM THE NAVAL ACADEMY IN 1928. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.

HIS SELECTION FOR THE CIA JOB BROUGHT PRAISE FROM FORMER ASSOCIATES AND SHIPMATES.

SAID ONE, ALSO A RETIRED ADMIRAL:

"THE PRESIDENT GOT QUITE A GUY. RED'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO WON'T BE DISTRACTED BY NONESSENTIAL DETAIL. HE'S A GUY WHO DRIVES HIMSELF AND WHO'S ONE OF THOSE LUCKY FELLOWS WHO COMMANDS RESPECT AND MAKES YOU WANT TO DO YOUR BEST.

"RED'S GOT TREMENDOUS MANAGERIAL ABILITY.

"HE CAN REALLY CUT THROUGH THE FOG."

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